Grants Awarded by HHS

Behavioral Health Services

Healthy Community Collaborative Program Rural Learning Community

Senate Bill 1849, 85th Legislature, Regular Session, 2017 requires The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to establish or expand community collaboratives serving two or more counties each with a population of less than 100,000. The goals of the Healthy Community Collaborative (HCC) program are to assist homeless individuals with mental illness or substance use problems achieve recovery and re-integration in their communities. These goals are achieved by providing permanent housing, providing competitive employment, and/or connecting participants with support services such as mental health treatment, substance use treatment, and employment services. To aid the expansion of the HCC program into rural counties, HHSC will utilize learning communities.

HHS Accepting Letters of Interest for Rural Healthy Community Collaborative Learning Communities

If your organization serves two or more Texas counties, each with a population of less than 100,000, and want to expand or establish a community collaborative, HHSC invites you to submit a letter of interest to participate in a learning community. HHSC has contracted with the University of North Texas to establish the learning community and support efforts to expand the HCC program into rural Texas.

Learning community participants will learn how to:

- Develop a community collaborative.
- Identify community needs.
- Build stakeholder partnerships.
- Create plans to secure private cash and in-kind match to state-awarded funds.
- Develop sustainability strategies.

Revised 8/14/19
HHSC plans to release a Request for Application (RFA) for the procurement of provider services under the HCC program in counties that meet the above population criteria. Successful applicants who are awarded HCC funds will operate community collaboratives that coordinate and provide the services as described below. Although participation in a learning community is not a prerequisite, participating agencies will have support from the University of North Texas in preparing their submission to the RFA.

**Community Collaboratives**

Community collaboratives in the HCC program are made up of non-profit community organizations, local government entities, and faith-based organizations. Collaboratives help homeless adults experiencing mental health or substance use disorders achieve recovery and community re-integration by connecting them with housing and support services, such as employment services and mental health and substance use treatment.

**Submit a Letter of Interest**

If your organization meets the criteria described above and would like to participate in a learning community, please submit a letter of interest **by 5:00 p.m., August 30, 2019.** Submit completed letters by email to helen.eisert@hhsc.state.tx.us.

Your letter of interest must include:

1. Your statement of intent to participate in the learning community to gain information on forming a collaborative within the HCC program.
2. A description of organizations in your community currently working together to provide homeless services. Please focus on aspects related to housing, mental health and substance use treatment, and post-arrest jail diversion. If there is no such collaborative effort within your community, please describe your ability to form one. Please also emphasize the types (and names, if possible) of organizations and individuals who could comprise a collaborative.
3. A description of your community’s ability to match grant funds in one of the below ways:
   a. Private cash match or private in-kind match for the full grant amount, or
b. A combination of private cash and in-kind match up to the full grant amount, or

c. Private cash match for 25% of the full grant amount for counties with a population of 250,000 or less.

Questions?

Please direct inquiries to Helen Eisert, Program Specialist, at (512) 838-4341 or helen.eisert@hhsc.state.tx.us.